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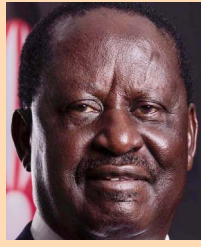
Price Rs. 20

Indonesia, Pakistan trusted partners: Ambassador Adam

Detailed News On Page-01

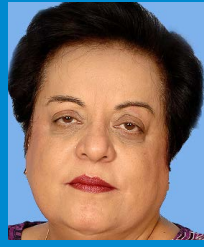
Kenya elections: Raila Odinga rejects result

Detailed News On Page-08



US envoy's meeting not a problem

Detailed News On Page-08



Strong backlash from Nawaz, Zardari

Miftah defends hike in POL price

Says IMF loan disbursement to start by Aug end



SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD, ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Miftah Ismail defended on Tuesday the federal government's decision to hike the price of petrol after backlash from his party's supreme Nawaz Sharif and a strong coalition partner - PPP. The government jacked up Monday night the price of petrol by Rs6.72 per litre for the next fortnight, taking it to 233.91 per

litre, while the rate of diesel was also moved up to 244.44 per litre.

In his press conference, the finance minister clarified that he had not stated that he would not be increasing the price of petroleum products. Addressing a press conference, the minister said that Islamabad had received Letter of Intent (LoI) from the fund requiring some edits by State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and Finance Ministry,

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Maryam Nawaz rejects govt's decision

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz on Tuesday while rejecting the recent increase in petrol price by the government said that she can no longer support the government's decision and stands with the people. In a statement on Twitter, Maryam Nawaz said that the PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif is not in support of burdening the nation with further hike in petrol prices and he has strongly

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ISLAMABAD: US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome calls on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force. - DNA

Bus-oil tanker collision leaves 20 dead

Mariyum grieved over accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT

MULTAN: At least 20 people were killed and six others injured after a sleeper bus collided with an oil tanker on the M-5 Motorway, also known as the Multan-Sukkur Motorway near Bahawalpur on Tuesday. The passenger bus was on its way from Lahore to Karachi. Motorway officials said the accident was caused by speeding. The accident took place when the speeding sleeper bus went out of control and

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Pakistan's efforts for regional peace laudable: US envoy

Air Chief says Pakistan values its strong relations with the United States

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome called on Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu in Islamabad on Tuesday. During the meeting, matters of regional security situation, enhanced bilateral and defence cooperation were discussed. Both sides agreed to further optimize military to military ties particularly in training and operational domains. The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's efforts in promoting regional peace and vowed to enhance cooperation in various fields. He also lauded the professionalism of Pakistan Air Force

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USAID to provide \$100,000 for flood affectees

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: United States Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome on Tuesday said that the U.S. stands with communities in Pakistan recovering from the devastation caused by severe flooding. In his tweet, he said, "I issued a declaration of humanitarian

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Briefs

Shahzad Akbar name put on ECL

ISLAMABAD: Federal cabinet on Tuesday approved placing the name of former adviser on interior and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shahzad Akbar on the Exit Control List (ECL). The Federal Cabinet meeting was held in Prime Minister House Islamabad under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. During the meeting, the cabinet approved placing the names of 10 people, including former Prime Minister Imran Khan's advisor on accountability Shahzad Akbar, in the ECL. - DNA

Türkiye for political solution in Syria

NEWS DESK

ANKARA: Türkiye has always backed a political solution to the Syrian conflict, the Turkish foreign minister said on Tuesday. "The (Syrian) regime does not believe in a political solution, it believes in a military solution. A permanent solution is a political solution."

Indonesian Day
Today's newspaper carries a two-page supplement on the occasion of Independence Day of Indonesia. - Editor

Inside...

Govt takes measures to stabilize economy: Marri - Page 03

Speakers highlight sacrifices of Pakistan movement heroes - Page 04

CPEC: The metamorphosis of a Northern Middle-age - Page 05

Contradictions of US foreign-policy - Page 06

EU says mulling Iran response to 'final' text - Page 08

PTI on a media solidarity drive

Khan to address seminar on media freedom

FIAZ CH.

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) gave finishing touch to the arrangements for the much-needed two-day activities to express solidarity with the journalist community and to ensure safeguard and protection of freedom of expression and freedom of media. Under the two consecutive days planned program, PTI would hold a protest demonstration today (Wednesday) and a big seminar would be organized under the title "Freedom of Expression and Protection of Media" on August 18. PTI Central Secretary General Asad Umar issued special instructions to party officials on Tuesday in this regard. In the two-day activities, the issue of the worst crackdown in the country against independent media and freedom of expression would be raised, as media and journalists have been facing worst harassment and curbs since the imported government seized the power through conspiracy. The PTI's protest demonstration to be held in the federal capital against the harassment of media and journalists would be led by Asad Umar to express solidarity with the media persons. Similarly, the national seminar would be organized in Islamabad on August 18, where Imran Khan would give an important address. Key personalities from print, electronic and social media were also specially invited to the seminar. Moreover, people from all walks of life would attend the important event, which

PTI delegation meets Gill in Adiala Jail

IRSHAD ALI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) seven-member parliamentary delegation expressed serious concern over the police torture on Dr. Shahbaz Gill in detention. The seven-member delegation of the PTI senators visited Adiala Jail on Tuesday and held meeting with Gill. The delegation was led by Senator Dr. Shehzad Wasim comprising Senator Saifullah Niazi, Senator Shibli Faraz and Senator Azam Swati. Besides, the delegation included Senator Abdul Qadir, Senator Saifullah Abro and Senator Sardar Gurdeep Singh. The delegation met with Dr. Shahbaz Gill and inquired about his well-being. The members of the delegation expressed deep concern over the violence on the PTI leader. The members of the delegation would inform the party leadership about the situation regarding the meeting.

would also be addressed by various intellectuals and senior journalists.

Heli incident; rumor mongers to be arrested

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to arrest all the people behind the negative propaganda against Lasbela helicopter crash on

Continued on Page 06

Indonesia, Pakistan trusted partners: Amb Adam

Indonesia and Pakistan share also remarkable similarities in their values, beliefs, food habits, and other aspects of social and daily life

EXCLUSIVE

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio has said the early resumption of Palm Oil supplies to Pakistan after phone conversation between President Joko Widodo and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif truly reflects the spirit of cooperation and sound development of our growing bilateral ties. President Joko Widodo ordered immediate supply of 10 containers of palm oil and to initiate process for the shipment of one million tons of palm oil to Pakistan. The decision also shows Indonesia's commitment to maintain sustained global supply of palm oil and this gesture of goodwill will surely provide renewed impetus to the trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. He expressed these views while giving an interview to Daily Islamabad POST. The interview coincides with the Independence Day celebrations of Indonesia. The ambassador further said, Indonesia had to impose temporarily ban exports of palm oil on late April due to the



scarcity of cooking oil in our domestic market. It was an irony that as the biggest producer of palm oil, people in Indonesia could not find edible oil in the market. The ban was lifted in May 23, 2022. As a trusted friend, Indonesia paid prior attention to the visit of Pakistani delegation led by Minister for Industries & Production Makhdoom Syed Murtaza Mahmud to Jakarta from 12-14 June 2022 on the special instruction of PM Shehbaz Sharif. Prompt facilitation was



extended by Indonesia in response to Pakistan's request for the earliest possible palm oil shipments after the meeting of Pakistani minister with his Indonesian counterparts. Indonesian Ministers also assured that Pakistan would be the first country to which the commodity will be exported after the promulgation of new export regulations. Ten ships loaded with 140,000 Metric tons of edible oil have arrived in Pakistan during June and July, following phone conversation be-

tween our two leaders'. The top leadership of both Indonesia and Pakistan fully realize the importance of continued communication and dialogue and committed to remain actively engaged on issues of mutual interest at bilateral and multilateral levels. Here, I would specifically like to mention recent bilateral consultations held at the political level. The 3rd Round of Policy Planning Dialogue and Bilateral Consultation Forum were held on 24-25 May 2022 in

Bali. During these talks both the sides reviewed the growth of Pakistan-Indonesia ties over the last 72 years, agreed to strengthen relations with a more structural approach. To this end, our two Foreign Ministers will meet on regular basis for taking stock the progress and providing strategic directions to further elevate two-way relations. Simultaneously, this forum serves also as a platform for bilateral consultation to address global issues of shared concern. He added, our two leaders also seized the momentum of Eid Adha Mubarak to express their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations by exchange the invitations for official visits. President Joko Widodo and PM Shehbaz Sharif further agreed that as the two largest Islamic countries, Pakistan and Indonesia should continue to work closely on issues of concern to the Ummah. The recent engagements between the leadership of the two countries have been a manifestation and reaffirmation of the two countries cordial and exemplary long-standing diplomatic relations. While talking about religious and cultural relations the ambassador said, building of cultural bridge and expansion of academic linkages are

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7
PULIH
LEBIH CEPAT
BANGKIT
LEBIH KUAT



MESSAGES FOR INDONESIAN NATIONAL DAY



H.E. Adam M. Tugio
Ambassador
Republic of Indonesia

On the auspicious occasion of the 77th Independent Day of Indonesia, I take this opportunity to convey my heartiest independence greetings to all the Indonesian citizens living in Pakistan and across the world. The historical day of 17 August marks the liberation of Indonesia from the colonialism in 1945 following the heroic sacrifices of our founding fathers and courageous freedom fighters. While commemorating this special day together, the whole Indonesian nation renews its commitment to continue moving ahead together for greater peace and prosperity. At this time of jubilation, it also gives me immense pleasure to extend my warm felicitations to the Government and brotherly of Pakistan on the momentous event of Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of Independence celebrated on 14 August 2022.

During this long difficult journey after independence, Indonesia has successfully maintained a positive momentum of development as envisioned by our founders. As the world's third largest democracy with a rapid economic growth, Indonesia is widely acknowledged now as a notable global and regional player at international fora. Indonesia's consistent implementation of free and active foreign policy enables it to play constructive role in promoting multilateralism to resolve global issues. Indonesia now holds the Presidency of G-20, demonstrating its fast-growing capacity to provide leadership while also representing the voices of developing nations in this strategic multilateral platform that connects the world's major developed and emerging economies.

In terms of economic development, Indonesia is predicted to become the 7th largest economy by 2030. It is also evident from the economic indicators of trillion-dollar Indonesian economy that remained positive despite pandemic. The recovery remains intact fuelled by growing domestic demand and maintained export performance.

The domestic economic growth was solid in the first half of this year, at 5.01%, and exports continued to climb 16.22% on the basis of steady demand, while imports grew 15.03% in response to strong export performance and increasing domestic demand. According to the World Bank, Indonesian economy is projected to accelerate at 5.1 percent in 2022 and to 5.3 percent in 2023. This progress is the outcome of Indonesia's strong belief in democracy and sustained policy to enhance co-operation with friends and partners globally.

As regards Indonesia-Pakistan bilateral ties, it is heartening to note the steady productive growth of mutually-beneficial relationship in multiple areas of interest. As the two Muslim-majority countries with sizeable youth millennial, the top leadership of both Indonesia and Pakistan recognises the benefits of increased engagement and is determined to remain actively engaged at bilateral and multilateral levels. A more structured approach of meetings led by Foreign Ministers will be convened regularly to take stock progress and development as well to provide give strategic directive to elevate the brotherly relations even further.

Indonesia and Pakistan share remarkable similarities in their values, beliefs, customs and traditions as well as other aspects of social and daily life. These parallels are a powerful indication of the two cultures' historical and religious connections— some of them create a fusion of culture as manifested in similarities in popular cuisines from *Rendang to Pasanday* and *Bakwan to Pakora* and to costumes design like *Batik and Ajrak*. Moreover, the dynamic alumni and diaspora existing on both sides could play its supportive role in the upgradation of bilateral socio-cultural ties and people-to-people contacts. It is my sincere hope that Indonesia-Pakistan will harvest even more achievements in future development by maintaining dynamic momentum of present comprehensive cooperation in all fields. I wish that the friendship between our two countries may grow from strength to strength.

Long Live Indonesia-Pakistan Friendship.
Indonesia-Pakistan Dosti Zinda baad!



Dr. June Kuncoro
Consul General
Republic of Indonesia
in Karachi

As two biggest Moslem countries in the world, Indonesia and Pakistan have been always like brothers. Both highly value August as "Month of the Independence" in which Indonesia celebrates its independence day on the 17th of August while Pakistan celebrate it on the 14th. The celebration of 77th Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia on 17 August 2022 certainly rekindle good memories on the mutual supports between Indonesia and Pakistan in protecting their sovereignty.

Along with the spirit "Recover Together, Recover Stronger" of the Indonesian Presidency of G20 Indonesia attaches the importance of Pakistan's economic recovery. Running the diplomacy from the melting pot city of Karachi, the financial/business hub of Pakistan, Indonesian Consulate in Karachi always considers every interaction between Consulate and Pakistani people in Sindh as an opportunity to enhance economic and socio cultural tie.

Hand-in-hand with the Embassy in increasing Indonesia-Pakistan trade volume, from US\$ 2,58 billion (2020) to US\$ 3,99 billion (2021), in 2021, the Consulate has conducted 178 trade-related services and attended 151 business meetings in Karachi and other cities in Sindh. In the context of socio-cultural cooperation, the Consulate has established free Indonesian language course to support the biggest allocation of Indonesian scholarship to Pakistani youths. This youth cooperation is also fostered through the establishment of Indonesia Pakistan Youth Forum (IPYF), even from the early age through Indonesia-Pakistan Children Friendship.

With this spirit of our independence day, we reiterate our commitment to grow together with our friendly country Pakistan. And, I wish the continued success and welfare of people and government of Pakistan and Sindh Province.

Aapka bahat bahat Shukriya



August is a very special month for our country as well. On occasions of the 77th Independence anniversary of Indonesia, I wish a very Happy Independence day to the Respected Ambassador H.E Adam Mulawarman Tugio and the entire team at the Embassy and to the people of Indonesia.



Shamoan Zaki
President
Indonesia-Pakistan
Business Forum

Pakistan & Indonesia share similar values as a nation which serves as a supporting factor in nourishing good relations between both nations. I pray to Almighty Allah to give more strength & power to Indonesia to grow further as a nation and may the brotherly relations between our two countries flourish.

I also wish to develop strong business relations along with increase in bilateral trade between the two countries on the basis of mutual interests.

Long Live Pakistan & Indonesia Friendship
Ameen

I would like to extend my very warm felicitations to Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan, H.E Adam M. Tugio and whole Indonesian community on the 77th Independence Day of Indonesia.

The strong bond of friendship between Pakistan and Indonesia is a point of pride for both our nations. Pakistani business community would continue to work together to strengthen bilateral ties with Indonesian businessmen and promote bilateral trade.

There are vast opportunities for increasing trade and investment between the two countries. Pakistan offers attractive opportunities for investment and joint ventures to Indonesia investors, which would definitely benefit Indonesian investors, and will also lead to prosperity and development for both countries. I believe Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Pakistan and Indonesia is important as it would bring tremendous benefits to the economies of both the countries, boost bilateral trade, and economic relations will also be further strengthened.



Abid Nisar
Chairperson
Pakistan-Indonesia
Business Council

wonderful indonesia **TOP 5 INDONESIAN DESTINATIONS YOU MUST VISIT ONCE IN A LIFETIME**

LAKE TOBA



The sheer size of Lake Toba makes it more like an ocean than a lake. It holds titles as the largest lake in Indonesia, largest lake in Southeast Asia, one of the world's deepest lake and the world's largest volcanic lake. In July 2020, Lake Toba is designated as a UNESCO Global Geopark. It is located in the midst of the northern region of the island of Sumatra, measuring around 100 kilometres long, 30 kilometres wide, and up to 505 metres deep, with a surface elevation of about 900 metres. Spectacular natural beauties of Lake Toba can be enjoyed in a variety of ways, such as Kayaking and glamorous camping (glamping). Immerse yourself in nature with the conveniences of upscale luxury camping at available resorts located at Ajibata Sub-district, Toba Samsosir Regency.

This is Mandalika, the island's best-kept secret among surfers and now the centre of leisure. Mandalika screams heaven from every one of its charming nooks and the tourism sector in Mandalika rivals that of its neighbour island, Bali.

In Mandalika, you can experience ultimate beach-hopping activity, all kinds of fun water sports activities at famous Kuta Beach and swimming, surfing, and fishing at Gerupuk Beac For a one-of-a-kind cultural experience, head down to Seger Beach during the annual tradition of Bau Nyale Ritual and join in the local festivity you won't find elsewhere. Moreover, don't forget to immerse yourself in a magnificent experience as you visit the unique native traditional villages of Sade and Ende near Mandalika.

Situated on the western most end of Flores Island, Labuan Bajo has become the gateway to many exotic destinations in East Nusa Tenggara such as the ancient Komodo dragon's den, beautiful pink beach and fabulous underwater life where huge turtles, manta rays and gorgeous colorful reefs make this a paradise for divers.



The presence of a rare species like the green sea turtle, is a sign that the ocean ecosystem of Northern Sulawesi is in a healthy condition. The beaches together with the mountainous areas, and lush forests in North Sulawesi are the highlights that make this destination special. Let it be diving, snorkelling, to focus on seeking peace in spiritual tourism.

LIKUPANG



Tourists will be stunned by the exoticism of white sandy beaches, graded sea water, and charming green hills. In addition, the self-ecotourism facility helps protect the marine ecosystem, so that coral reefs and fish remain visible and easy to find.



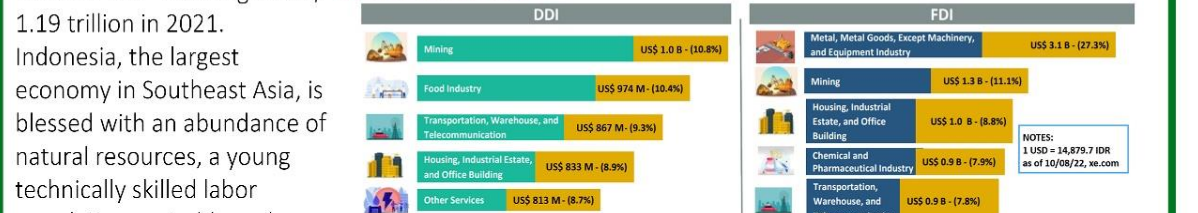
BOROBUDUR
Built between AD 780 and 840, the magnificent Borobudur temple is the world's biggest Buddhist monument you must visit at least once in your lifetime. It has 550 sculptures of Sidharta Gautama's head with a curly hair reminiscent of the Gandhara civilization.

MANDALIKA

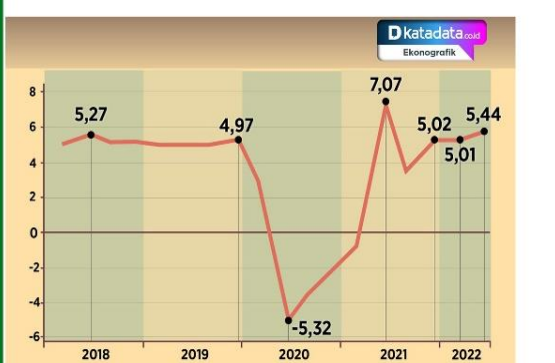


INDONESIA : EMERGING GLOBAL ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE

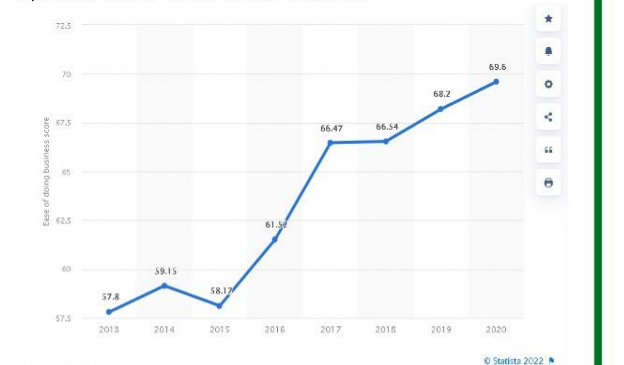
Indonesia is an emerging global economic powerhouse with the GDP reaching to US\$ 1.19 trillion in 2021. Indonesia, the largest economy in Southeast Asia, is blessed with an abundance of natural resources, a young technically skilled labor population, a sizable and expanding domestic market, an improving investment climate, and a stronger global profile. Indonesia has also enjoyed demographic bonuses. The productive population is predicted to be at the highest point during 2020-2035, which reaches up to 64 percent of the total number of Indonesian populations. Indonesia's economy performed well in Q-II 2022, powered by a commodity-led exports boom and robust household spending in domestic market. World Bank and ADB projected the Indonesian economy to accelerate at 5.1 percent in 2022 and to 5.3 percent in 2023 due to robust domestic demand and exports.



FDI into Indonesia also surged 31.8 percent y-o-y to a new record high of USD 10.22 billion in Q I 2022, sharply picking up from a 10.1 percent growth in the previous period. Ease of doing business shows also upward trend since 2013 onward.



Despite unfavorable conditions due to pandemic and global financial market volatility, the economy continues to normalize, thanks to highest vaccination rate and the increase in global commodity prices. Improvements in jobs, incomes, and confidence are stoking private consumption. Healthy demand and rising credit are stimulating private investment. Country's credit ratings are also improving as reflected by Standard & Poor's, Fitch Ratings and Moody's.



Under the leadership of President Joko Widodo, the Indonesian government has implemented several structural reforms aiming to sustain long-term growth. Budget for infrastructure is increasing and fiscal incentives are offered to private investors. Likewise, the Government is expanding the lending of financial services for individuals and MSMEs which accounts for 98.68 percent of total businesses in Indonesia. Approximately 64 million MSMEs in Indonesia absorb a whopping 97 percent of the workforce, equivalent to approximately 116.9 million people.

6,513 villages electrified in fiscal year 2021-22

ISLAMABAD: As many as 6,513 villages have been electrified besides providing 1,388,939 connections to the consumers during the last fiscal year 2021-22 by the various power distribution companies (DISCOs). Officials sources told that in addition to the village electrification and providing connections to the consumers, the 132 kV distribution lines were extended by 1,473 km during the said period. Sharing details of the villages electrification, out of total 2,933 villages were electrified by Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO), 1231 Multan Electric Supply Company (MEPCO), 450 Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO), 416 Gujranwala Electric Supply Company (GEPCO), 70 Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO), 279 Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO), 719 Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) and 220 Tribal Electric Supply Company (TESCO). Similarly, FESCO provided 240,438 new connections to the consumers, GEPCO 210,100, IESCO 116,797, MEPCO 352,712, LESCO 289,113, PESCO 131,371 and QESCO 10,0009 during the said period. - APP

Asad seeks report of traffic accident on Multan M-5

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Communications and Postal Services Maulana Asad Mahmood on Tuesday sought a report from Inspector General National Highways and Motorway Police regarding collision between Bus and Tanker on Multan M-5. The minister directed IG Motorway Police to ensure immediate assistance to the affected passengers, said a press release. Federal Minister for Communications Asad Mahmood also expressed grief and sorrow over the tragic road accident. Expressing sympathy with affected families, the minister prayed Almighty Allah to rest the departed souls in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved families to bear the irreparable loss with fortitude. He also prayed for the early recovery of the injured. - APP

New police station inaugurated in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: Senior Superintendent of Capital Police Noshewan Ali on Tuesday formally inaugurated a new police station 'Phulgran' in Islamabad to provide maximum relief to the people and resolve their problems on immediate basis. The new police station covers the areas of Athal, Bobri, Phulgran, Chhattar, Shakrila, Mera Begwal, Shahpur and PTV colony. All resources including logistics and police strength have been allocated for the proper functioning of the police station with an aim to provide justice to people at their doorsteps. According to details, the federal government has approved three new police stations in the Capital which included Phulgran, Kirpa and Sangiani police stations. SP (City) Noshewan Ali formally inaugurated Phulgran police station while Station House Officers (SHOs) have been appointed at all police stations for their proper functioning at earliest. Inspector Shamas ul Akbar has been appointed as SHO Sangiani police station, Sub-Inspector Nasir Mansoor as SHO Phulgran and Sub-Inspector Imran Haider at SHO Kirpa police station. The strength of Phulgran police station is 21 including two Sub-Inspectors and five Assistant Sub-Inspectors while SHO and Muharrar have been appointed there. SHO Phulgran police station has been provided vehicle to run the affairs of police station while weapons and ammunition would be provided to cops from the store of Bhara Kau police station. There would be equal distribution of under-investigation cases and record between Phulgran and Bhara Kau police station keeping in view the jurisdictions of both police stations. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Thailand Chakkrid Krachaiwong hosted dinner for the senior journalists from the Print and Electronic Media. - DNA

Govt takes measures to stabilize economy: Marri

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri on Tuesday said that the government was taking correct measures to stabilize the economy. Addressing a conference on economy, the federal minister said that despite several interventions in the political system of Pakistan and the war against terrorism and extremism, we as a nation were strong enough to stand for our country and put it on the path of progress and stability. Quoting the famous sayings, Shazia Marri said someone rightly said that "strong economy is a source of national strength". "Economy is the start and end of everything and you cannot bring any reform unless you have a strong economy", she said.

She said, "We are member of global comity. I am very happy to express gratitude to our international friends who always extended help to us in difficult times like disasters or calamities". Briefing about her ministry, Shazia Marri said that her ministry is working diligently to improve the socio-economic status of the poor. "All the shocks that economy has to face ultimately affect the living conditions of poor segments of the country the most". Mentioning the alarming indicators faced by the country, the minister said that Pakistan is ranked among 43 countries which are most exposed to poverty while 54 percent of its population is vulnerable to poverty due to health shocks.

She mentioned that around 52 million people in the country are living below poverty line while 30 percent of the households experience food insecurity so the whole state of economy impact the population of the country as well as poverty ratio. The minister elaborated that Benazir Income Support Program, initiated in 2008, was the brain child of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. The program provides financial support and other facilities to the eight million families. The basic criterion of this program is to register the women member of the household for extending the benefits. She said that since the country inherited a destabilized economy from the previous government and recorded 38.2 billion dol-

lar trade deficit when came into power, we have to take correct measures to ensure stability of economy and ensure the poor people graduate out of poverty. Shazia Marri observed that IMF study estimates that Pakistan's GDP can increase nearly 33 percent if women contribution towards the labour force is close towards the men participation. Quoting a study of International Labour Organization, she said that if Pakistan reduces gender gap in female participation and labour force by 25 percent, its GDP can increase up to nine percent. The federal minister also emphasized the need to incentivize the agriculture sector to increase the production level. - APP

Geopolitics of Indo-Pacific enters into new trade war

DNA
ISLAMABAD: The socio-economy and geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific region has entered into a new "blind alley" of another trade war in terms of semiconductor/CHIPS, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday. Most recently, the US government has announced to form a BIG/CHIP 4 Alliance (US, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan) to contain

the Chinese semiconductor capacity and market share, the report added quoting an article contributed by Dr. Mehmoood UI Hassan Khan, Executive Director of the Center for South Asia & International Studies (CSAIS). It was stated that in the near past, the world experienced a shortage of chips during the Covid-19 pandemic, which disrupted the production of multiple products and sparked a worldwide debate about chip production. In this connection, the US President Joe Biden recently signed the Chips and Science Act of worth US\$52 billion and sets aside tens of billions of dollars to encourage companies to set up manufacturing and design facilities in the US. The Act has "violated" basic market rules by using the government's power to change the global labor distribution pattern in the semiconductor industry,

which has been formed naturally over the years according to market characteristics and resources. China and some other countries are good at mass production because these countries have advantages over the US in terms of labor costs. Therefore, a short-term subsidy aimed at moving all the sectors of the semiconductor to the US will only add to its manufacturing cost, making the products less competitive in the international market.

'Azadi Ke Rang Saron Ke Sung' held at PAC

RAWALPINDI: A musical night "Azadi Ke Rang Saron Ke Sung" was organized at Punjab Arts Council to celebrate the Pakistan Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Naheed Manzoor and Director of Arts Council Waqar Ahmed were the chief guests of the musical night. While speaking on the occasion, Naheed Manzoor said that the folk songs of Punjab had their unique place in the country's culture, in which the traditions, simplicity and sincere love of the people of Punjab were hidden. However, the artists of Punjab had preserved their folk songs, tunes and uniqueness in a prosperous way, she said, adding that today's young generation was also benefiting from this. Manzoor said that PAC also significantly promoted the culture of other provinces and federal units. Addressing the event, Director of Arts Council Waqar Ahmad said that a nation's identity was its civilization and culture, and only those nations prosper who were connected to their culture. Punjab Arts Council had provided a platform to the youth in the fields of drama, music, fine arts and literature, he added. In the musical night, Dr Mubashir Hafeez, Laila Jatti, Hekmat Awan, Ishaq Malik Ghori, Samina Khalid, Mohsin Pasha and Hamza Ali received a standing ovation from the audience. The singers presented beautiful songs from all provinces, including Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. - APP

Anti-harassment laws provide a safe environment; Nabila

RAWALPINDI: Provincial Woman Ombudsman Nabila Hakeem Khan Tuesday said that anti-harassment laws had played a vital role in providing a safe environment for women in offices. She said this while participating in a dialogue on "Harassment of Women" at a local hotel. Nabila said that office-based anti-harassment committees must have detailed knowledge of their responsibilities and relevant laws. She informed that a consultation process was underway at the divisional level to implement anti-harassment laws more effectively. A system was being updated to apprise women about their complaints and actions, she said and added that society could not take advantage of women's potential without a protective environment. Speaking on the occasion, technical specialist UNFPA Tania Durrani said awareness of women's rights and enforcement of anti-harassment laws had improved significantly in Pakistan. She said that government and private departments had provided a better environment for women. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Youth affairs shaza Fatima khwaja presenting a souvenir to his excellency Japanese Ambassador wada Mitsuhiro. - DNA

Workshop to improve acquisition of education data

Quality of this institution was greatly supported in improving the standard education policy, curriculum, teaching materials, teaching method and examination system, national coordinator informed

ISLAMABAD: The five-day workshop on "Policy Linking" has started in collaboration with the National Assessment Wing of the Federal Ministry of Education and Professional Training, the Pakistan Institute of Education, World Bank and the American Institute of Research. On the opening ceremony of the five-day workshop (August 15-19), National Coordinator of National Assessment Wing Muhammad Shakeel warmly welcomed the participants and well-known trainers from all over the country. In the workshop, the lead trainer of the American Institute of Research, Dr Jeff Davis (Education

Program Lead and Senior Psychometrician) and Dr Abdullah Firdous are training the participants from all over the country. National Coordinator Muhammad Shakeel said the Policy Linking Workshop was the second workshop regarding capacity building, adding, earlier, the first three-day workshop was held from 26 to 28 July, 2022. Explaining the aims and objectives of the National Assessment Wing, Pakistan Institute of Education, Shakeel said that in view of the national education reforms, the National Education Assessment System (NEAS) was established in 2003 under the Ministry of Federal Education. It was recently merged

into the Pakistan Institute of Education to form the National Assessment Wing, he added. The quality of this institution was greatly supported in improving the standard education policy, curriculum, teaching materials, teaching method and examination system, national coordinator informed. He said that it had not only proved to be helpful in improving the quality of education but was also playing its role in setting educational priorities. This organization, Muhammad Shakeel said, receives information about educational problems from students, teachers, administrators and parents and identifies the fac-

tors affecting the academic performance of students. Furthermore, by analyzing all these factors, it informs all the stakeholders and in the light of the report of this institution, the higher officials of the federal, provincial and regional education departments take necessary steps that set the right direction to improve the quality of education. He said that for the first time in the country's history, under the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), an institution had been established to assess the educational standards of students at the international level. Under the institution, more than 5000 students in science and mathematics subjects of the fourth and eighth grades had participated in international competitions with children from 70 countries. The national coordinator said that organizing the workshop would help in improving the National Achievement Test (NAT) while the workshop would increase the capacity building of the National Assessment Wing's head office staff and provincial/area assessment staff. He said it would also improve the acquisition of education data at the federal and provincial levels and added that the workshop would continue till August 19.

National Days and Armed Forces Days

AUGUST
Aug 01/ CHINA
Armed Forces Day
Aug 01/ SWITZERLAND
National Day
Aug 01/ LEBANON
Armed Forces Day
Aug 01/ SYRIA
Armed Forces Day
Aug 4/ BUKINO FASO
National Day
Aug 09/ SINGAPORE
National Day
Aug 15/ DPR KOREA
Independence Day
Aug 15/ INDIA
Independence Day
Aug 15/ POLAND
Armed Forces Day
Aug 17/ INDONESIA
Independence Day
Aug 24/ UKRAINE
Independence Day
Aug 25/ URUGUAY
Independence Day
Aug 30/ TURKEY
Armed Forces Day
Aug 31/ KYRGYZ
Independence Day
Aug 31/ MALAYSIA
National Day

Hotels & Restaurants

Serena Hotel.....111 133 133
Marriott.....051-2826121
Monal.....0334-5421812

Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949

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Rescue (Police).....15
Bomb Disposal.....15
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MH.....5611116
Cantt Hospital.....9270907-11
DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
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Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International.4603666

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CDA.....9208301-04
Met Office.....9250360-6
RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224
Potohar Town.....9209224
Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Briefs

Rupee gains 08 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan rupee on Tuesday gained 08 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 213.89 against the previous day's closing of Rs 213.97.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market were recorded at Rs 207.75 and Rs 211.75 respectively. The price of Euro decreased by Rs 1.72 and closed at Rs 217.24 against the last day's closing of Rs 218.96.

The Japanese Yen lost 01 paise to close at Rs 1.59, whereas a decrease of Rs 3.30 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 257.77 as compared to its last closing of Rs 258.99.

The exchange rates of Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal decreased by 01 paise each to close at Rs 58.23 and Rs 56.97 respectively. — APP

Senator for talks on economic stability

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Senator Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi on Tuesday said, all political parties should come forward and hold talks on charter of democracy for long term solution of stable economy.

Talking to PTV news he said, it was need of the hour to have talks with each political party for positive growth in economy which was also a right way of country's development.

He said that PML-N was a responsible political party which made untiring efforts to put country back on right track, while Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf appointed untrained and immature persons on key posts which destroyed the economy badly during their tenure. He said PML-N and its allied parties toppled the PTI's government in a democratic way and worked on fragile economy, and due to its prudent policies held successive talks with International Monetary Fund on its own conditions. He further said the country was badly economically trapped in PTI tenure and they were blaming others rather of taking steps in favour of country. — APP

PBM distributes 65,049 wheel chairs

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) has distributed some 65,049 wheel chairs, 500 white canes, 49,03 hearing aids and 2,374 artificial limbs among deserving disable persons during last 15 years period, said official sources.

Over 36,699 special persons got benefits from different welfare programmes of PBM during the last 15 years. Likewise, a person having monthly income of less than Rs 30,000 was eligible for receiving Individual financial assistance, medical, education and general assistance from PBM. While special persons irrespective of their financial status were eligible for financial assistance, white cane and wheel chairs. A family having one person with disability was being provided Rs 30,000 per annum. Financial assistance of Rs 60,000 was being provided to a family having two or more special persons per annum for life time of special persons. — APP

Patel rejects DRAP's proposal

ISLAMABAD: Minister of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Abdul Qadir Patel on Tuesday out rightly rejected the (DRAP) proposal to increase the prices of over 40 medicines. A spokesman of the ministry said in a statement that the DRAP has sent a summary seeking the increase in the prices of medicines.

Quoting the minister, the spokesman said the increase of not even a single medicine would be allowed as the people friendly government was determined to provide much needed relief to masses. Patel said government was taking practical measures to bring ease and comfort in the lives of people especially in the health sector. — APP

Speakers highlight sacrifices of Pakistan movement heroes

General highlighted how Pakistan has faced various challenges since its independence and resiliently the entire nation over powered them



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Resilient Pakistan - A special talk on Resilient Pakistan was organized by Rotary Club of Islamabad (Metropolitan) in line with celebrations of 75th Anniversary of Independence of Pakistan.

Imran Ghaznavi President RCIM welcomed the Guest Speaker Maj General Dr Sumraiz Salik. General Salik served in army for 34 years. High points of his career have been, instructional appointments, rich experience of war on terror, 5 tenures in GHQ and

command of a formation in Balochistan. He authored a book on War on Terror and he completed PhD on Strategic Security Management of CPEC in 2021.

General highlighted how Pakistan has faced various challenges since its independence and resiliently the entire nation

over powered them. Courage, contentment, faith and bravery are in our national bloodline. We all need to unite and together can lead Pakistan into the road of Peace and Prosperity remarked Imran Ghaznavi. The talk ended with a vote of thanks by Mian Shaukat Masood.

Murtaza Javed Abbasi announces to increase Chairman HEC tenure

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi has announced legislation to increase the term of the chairman of Higher Education Commission (HEC) from two years to four years to solve the problems faced by the higher education sector in Pakistan. Addressing the participants of a dinner hosted by well-known scholar and columnist Naem Masood, the minister said that the continuation of the higher education policies were essential for the country's development and educational improvement. The dinner was organized in the honor of Chairman Higher Education Commission of Pakistan Dr Mukhtar Ahmed. Murtaza assured that the legislation to increase the tenure of the Chairman HEC to 4 years would be implemented so that things go smoothly. Speaking on occasion, Naem said that it was very important to coordinate industrial links and consortium development for third party and research benefits for university ranking. Dr Mukhtar assured that innovations would be brought in research, ORIC and QEC activities in universities. The federal minister was the chief guest, while former minister of state Chaudhry Jafar Iqbal, VC Quaid-e-Azam University Dr M Ali Shah, VC Allama Iqbal Open University Dr Zia Al Qayyum and others were also present. — APP

Training on halal products testing from Aug 22

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH and the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) in collaboration with Islamic University in Uganda has planned to arrange a five-day training course titled "OIC/SMIIC Halal Products Standards and Testing" from August 22-26. According to an official of COMSTECH, the training course, to be held at Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU), Kampala, has been designed to address the interest of scientists, research scholars, government officials, statutory policymakers, enforcement officers, and food safety auditors in OIC/SMIIC Halal Products Standards and Testing. In view of the diversity of several products, including processed food and other items of daily use in the present day, authentication and confirmation of their Halal nature is a growing challenge globally. Beside the environmental contaminants, both biological and chemical, addition of non-halal ingredients, which is prohibited for Muslims, are a matter of concern. In recent years, awareness about Halal food and products has increased due to the cross contamination of several industrial products in our daily life. However, with increasing globalization, many Islamic countries import these products (or ingredients) from places which do not observe the Islamic religious laws. It is therefore, imperative for the Mus-

lim countries to establish Halal testing laboratories which will ensure the "Halal" status of the consumer products. The official informed that COMSTECH, SMIIC and other OIC institutions or organizations have been mandated by the Abu Dhabi Declaration (Second OIC Summit on Science and Technology, June 2021) to develop the capacity of Least Developed Countries (LDC) of the OIC relevant to Halal. The objective of this training course is to encourage the harmonization of Halal Standards used in the OIC Countries and internationally by aiding in the adoption and use of the OIC/SMIIC Halal Standards. The training course is designed to train the participants from Africa LDC-OIC Member States regarding the procedures for adoption, implementation and use of the OIC/SMIIC Halal Food Standards, mainly OIC/SMIIC 1:2019 - General Requirements for Halal Food, Auditing of Testing Labs in line with OIC/SMIIC 35 - Conformity Assessment - General Requirements for the Competence of Laboratories Performing Halal Testing and the Testing Procedures standards such as Test Method for detection of porcine in Food Products (meat, processed food and gelatin) which are being chosen at SMIIC TC1 Technical Committee for Halal food issues. — APP

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa cabinet review law and order situation

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cabinet in a meeting held here on Tuesday with Chief Minister Mahmood Khan in the chair reviewed the overall law and order situation in the province and expressed satisfaction over the measures taken by police and security forces for safeguarding the lives and property of the people. The meeting besides the cabinet members was also attended by the Provincial Chief Secretary, IGP, Additional Chief Secretary, Senior Member Board of Revenue and Administrative Secretaries of various Government Departments. Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information &

PRs Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif while briefing media persons about the decisions of the cabinet meeting at ITLA'CA informed that the law and order situation arising out in Swat a few days back was effectively tackled owing to the timely measures adopted by the law enforcing agencies under the personnel supervision of Chief Minister. "We assure the masses that there is nothing to worry as the provincial government will maintain its writ in the province at all costs and no compromise would be made on the solidarity of the country, safety of the people as well as maintenance of peace", he remarked. The news about deteriorating law and order situation in the social media, he said, is totally false and fabricated. The ceasefire with TTP

is intact and a good omen as no major incident has occurred after that which may lead to mistrust between the two parties, he observed. He further said that there are some groups which are inimical to the TTP's peace accord and their involvement in the terrorism related incidents in the province could not be ruled out. Barrister Saif further informed that the cabinet approved enhancing the minimum rates of wages as Rs. 26000 per month for different categories of workers working in all government industrial establishments of the province with effect from July 1, 2022, as per announcement of the Chief Minister on the floor of the house during the budget session. As regard, non-governmental industrial units,

the cabinet decided that the matter may be decided by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minimum Wages Board. He said the Provincial Government under the dynamic leadership of the Chief Minister Mahmood Khan was fully aware of the hardships faced by the labor community owing to the existing price hike and taking all possible measures within the ambit of the available resources to provide relief to the downtrodden segment of the society. He further said that the cabinet also approved extension in the tenure of Mr. Mukhtiar Khan of Usharai Dara District Dir Upper for further two years as non-official member of the Forest Development Corporation (FDC) Price Committee to smoothly run the affairs of the committee.

Sara gets Pride of Performance from Norway

ISLAMABAD: The smiling beauty and one of the talented actresses of Pakistan, Sara Khan got the honor of winning a prestigious award from overseas. In a recently held event at Oslo, Norway, Khan got the opportunity to represent her country Pakistan at an overseas platform along with her husband. At this auspicious moment the actor was honored with 'Pride of Performance' Award by 'Norway 14 August Committee'. While giving a thank-you note on stage, the 'Nazre-Bad' actress shared her immense happiness to be selected for this significant opportunity and award. "It's an honor for me that I am here along with so many big names who are the reason behind the success of not only Pakistan but the whole world. It's a splendid feeling when your work is being appreciated at the international platforms which gives us boost to work more and harder in our field. I feel proud to be present at the platform which is spreading peace globally and pray for the long and prosperous friendship between the two countries, Norway & Pakistan." Shortly after the ceremony, actor's husband and famous Pakistani singer Falak Shabbir took it to social media and upload the snippet of his wife's thank you speech over his YouTube Channel to congratulate her for the big achievement. Sara Khan has worked in various popular dramas such as Sabaat, Mohabbat Aag Si, Belapur Ki Dayan and Kitni Girhain Baaki Hain, earning national and International recognition. — APP

Forest deptt pays farewell to Sardar Naseer Khan

Sardar Naseer Khan is one of the few officers of all four provinces, AJK and GB, about whom not a single forest employee has spoken negatively, I think that is his greatest asset

MUMTAZ AHMED BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Naseer Khan has retired from the post of Chief Conservator Principal after spending 40 years in the Forest Department. Officials of the Forest Department organized beautiful and exemplary ceremonies in his honour. On his arrival at Kotli, he was welcomed by government, political and social figures. Sardar Naseer Khan is a resident of Kotli. Started schooling from the local school of Kotli and reached the university of USA to get education. He worked diligently and with good intentions in the department and reached the highest position of Chief Conservator Principal in the Forest

Department through his hard work. Reaching this position is the dream of every forest department officer. The Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Project is the biggest project in the history of Azad Kashmir which was a challenge for the Forest Department AJK. Sardar Naseer Khan played a key role in launching the Ten Billion Trees Tsunami Project. Regarding writing reports on TBTP, AJK made several visits and met many senior and junior forest officers. All the forest officers praised Sardar Naseer Khan. Sardar Naseer Khan is one of the few officers of all four provinces, AJK and GB, about whom not a single forest employee has spoken negatively, I think that is his greatest asset.



PM vows to down 'enemies of children's health'

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday strongly condemned the attack on a polio team in Tank, saying the enemies of the health of the nation's young generation would be strongly dealt with.

The prime minister condemned the killing of two policemen Sepoy Pir Rehman and Sepoy Nisar Khan as a result of the firing of terrorists on the polio team in Tank's slum area of Kot Azam. He expressed sympathies with the policemen who lost lives in the line of duty and said the nation paid tribute to the great sacrifices rendered by police.

PM Sharif said those involved in the attacks on the polio team wanted to make the children of the country suffer from disabilities due to the crippling disease. He vowed to eliminate the persons pursuing such agenda and nefarious designs against the young generation. — APP

Excise director visits mobile vehicle registration center

ISLAMABAD: Director Excise and Taxation (E&T), Bilal Azam on Tuesday visited the mobile vehicle registration centre at F-9 park to review the services being provided to the motorists. The E&T has enabled the people to pay token taxes, transfer their vehicles, and get them registered through the mobile van centre moving at major avenues and parks in the city throughout the day. During his visit, Bilal Azam interacted with the citizens and listened to their problems regarding the excise office.

He assured them of full support for the speedy resolution of the complaints. Talking to the media, director excise said after the initiative the visitors' issues pertaining to vehicles were being addressed amicably without waiting in long queues. Before initiating the service the people have to stand in long queues and wait for hours to get their vehicles registered or transferred, or for the token taxes to be paid, he added. Bilal Azam said the E&T was offering multiple services under one roof which led to an increase in revenue of the department.

The department, he said has so far generated over Rs19 billion in terms of various services during the ongoing year. Various taxes including tokens, registration and transfer fee were being received through the Islamabad City App for the convenience of the citizens, said the director.

Similarly, he said people were also benefiting from door-to-door service for registration and transfer purposes while staying at home. To avoid overcrowding, he advised the public to book an appointment at the station in advance by calling 051-90395386 or 051-2775386. — APP

PM pays tribute to Shuja Khazada

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday paid tribute to former Punjab home minister Colonel (Retd) Shuja Khazada for his courage, dedication and nobility.

"Remembering Col. (r) Shuja Khazada Shaheed on his seventh death anniversary. He was a great friend, a loyal, committed party leader and above all a noble soul," he said in a tweet.

The prime minister recalled Khazada's steadfastness to combat terrorism despite threats to his own life. "Despite threats to his life, he did not shy away from leading the fight against terrorism as Punjab Home Minister," he said. On August 16, 2015, Punjab home minister Colonel (Retd) Shuja Khazada was killed in a suicide attack on his political office in Shadi Khan village, Attock, along with 16 others. — APP

US ignoring suffering of Afghan people

ONE year after the hurried United States withdrawal from the country made headlines around the world, Afghanistan has all but disappeared from the global limelight. Out of sight, though, doesn't mean it should be out of mind. The Afghan people's well-being deserves greater humanitarian concern and practical assistance from the international community. Not only is the aid from foreign governments sparse and little, but Afghans are unable to access their own assets that have been frozen by Western governments. As economic conditions in Afghanistan deteriorate, appeals for the release of frozen Afghan assets are growing louder. A letter to US President Joe Biden and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen signed by 71 economists from the US and other countries has reportedly urged the US government to allow Afghanistan's central bank to reclaim its international reserves "in order to mitigate the humanitarian crisis and set the Afghan economy on a path toward recovery". After the Taliban's swift takeover of state power, the US froze nearly \$7 billion in assets that the Afghan central bank had in the US. The United Kingdom, Germany and the United Arab Emirates have likewise refused to return a total of \$2 billion to the country's central bank. Without the immediate input of the \$9 billion, according to the international economists, the Afghan central bank will be unable to perform its normal functions, and the Afghan economy will collapse. Currently 70 percent of Afghan families have difficulties getting basic necessities, about 22.8 million people (more than half the national population) face a serious food crisis, and 3 million children are subject to potential malnutrition. Returning all the \$7 billion looks impossible at least for now, because the Biden administration decided in February to use half of the Afghan money to compensate the families of victims of the 2001 terrorist attacks on the US, and has earmarked the other half to help the Afghan people, but circumventing the Taliban authorities. The terrorist designation still sticks to the Taliban and this is no doubt the most outstanding political obstacle to the return of the frozen assets as it will not receive recognition of the West in the near term. It will take time for the Taliban to prove its legitimacy and be accepted as a normal government. But the looming humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan won't wait. The international community must find a way to make sure that legal Afghan assets are released and used for humanitarian causes in the country. The Taliban's political designation should not be a pretext for indifference to the Afghan people's suffering, which looks like vindictiveness on the part of the US after its failure in the country on all fronts.

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Arrest season

TO further splash some oil into the excruciatingly toxic cauldron of politics in Pakistan, those steering the ship are pandering to the archetypal rivalries of the days gone by. As all sides are busy hatching schemes to outdo the other, deplorable victimisation has become the new normal. Just a while ago, condemnations smacking former aide to prime minister Shahbaz Gill's arrest as an adulterated attempt to clamp down on the opposition had poured in from all quarters when the government was advised to not overstep the line. Today, PML(N)'s blue-eyed leading horse Attaullah Tarar is knocking on the doors of the high court for refuge against the warrants. Similar haste has been shown by other stalwarts of the Lahori Lions in flying to their citadel in Islamabad.

In a desperate tit-for-tat attempt, instructions have been given to the FIA to go hard against PTI leaders, especially the former prime minister, in the foreign funding case. Quite expectedly, these charades do not consider the dire consequences bound to be borne by the masses. Never in the history of any country has political instability paved the path for milk and honey to flow. Our fragile economy is in no shape to lose the confidence of whatever vestigial investors it is left with.

The venom-spewing culture and overall intolerance of the dissident voices are fast gaining acceptance as the ideals of a democracy whose beauty lies in the difference of opinion. While Jati Umra and Bani Gala have been forced to stare down the barrel of a jumpy gun and the rest of the nation has been left with a bucket of popcorn in their hands, it remains to be seen whether cooler heads would ever prevail. When would the ruling elite of the country realise that too much water has already passed under the bridge and it is high time to struggle for their voters, their homeland for a change? After all, the personal squabbles can wait but an economy trying as hard as it can to survive through the day (without anyone standing in its corner) cannot.

Contradictions of US foreign-policy

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



US politicians and counterterrorism analysts urgently need to revise their assessments of the terrorist threat in Afghanistan. The successful US attack confirms those who have advocated an overarching counterterrorism strategy in Afghanistan

IN the last week of July 2022, the United States attended a regional conference on counterterrorism in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, where Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Mutaqi said his government had considered Afghanistan as a base against the international terrorism and honored promises which should not be used as such. Nonetheless, Al-Zawahiri's presence in Kabul appears to undermine Mutaqi's statements and the Taliban's pledge to sever ties with groups like al-Qaeda. It also complicates talks between the Taliban and US officials last week over the release of Afghan central bank assets, which could help ease Afghanistan's humanitarian crisis. During the de facto Taliban regime, US policymakers have attempted to walk a fine line: involving the Taliban in humanitarian, legal, and governance issues important to Washington while minimizing and

attempting to threaten to minimize that this engagement is still legal. But the US had to accept that even this minimal diplomatic engagement led to some normalization of the Taliban regime. The deal was that the engagement facilitated US support to end the enormous humanitarian and economic crises and opened a channel for the Taliban to push for inclusive governance that respects women and human rights. The al-Zawahiri strike reflecting the Taliban leaders' apparent continued willingness to harbor al-Qaeda brought this trade to the fore. It is now becoming much more difficult for the US and other countries to justify operational links with the Taliban. If the Taliban's abusive and repressive policies had already dashed hopes that their second round at the top would be different, Varzi's open defiance of their counter-terrorism promises in the February 2020 Doha Accords has now set them back on the path to become a pariah regime. US politicians and counterterrorism analysts urgently need to revise their assessments of the terrorist threat in Afghanistan. The successful US attack confirms those who have advocated an overarching counterterrorism strategy in Afghanistan. But al-Zawahiri getting a port in Kabul could also portend a more serious threat than expected. Currently US officials need to explore options to end the suffering of Afghans that do not rely on cooperation with or support for the Taliban regime. The recent US measures to freeze the Afghan central bank's assets, which were intended to help ease Afghanistan's liquidity crisis and restore normal economic activity, now face further uncertainty. The lessons of the 1996-2001 Taliban regimes in relation to the delivery of humanitarian aid should be revisited. The assassination of Zawahiri is timely evidence that the United States, while preoccupied with other foreign policy priorities and plagued by domestic divisions, remains committed to the counterterrorism mission. But it also demonstrates the bankruptcy of the Biden administration's foreign policy agenda on the other fronts. The killing of Zawahiri in an airstrike in Kabul, where he was holed up in a safe house under the protection of the Pakistan-affiliated branch of the Taliban known as the Haqqani Network. The fact that the al-Qaeda chief was able to find refuge in the Afghan capital proves that the country's Islamist rulers have no intention of severing their

long-standing ties to al-Qaeda, despite promising to do so last year. Therefore, the Taliban have not kept their side of the deal, as the White House itself now admits. According to Foreign Minister Antony Blinken, the Taliban "grossly" violated the terms of their deal with the US known as the Doha Accords by harboring Zawahiri on Afghan soil. Blankenship and other government officials remain silent about the practical consequences the US is willing to impose on the Taliban after exposing the group's double-edged policies. The other stage is Iran. Since Zawahiri is no longer in the picture, the most likely candidate to take over al-Qaeda leadership is Saif al-Adel, a former Egyptian army officer. However, US intelligence and counterterrorism experts agree that he and other members of the group's leadership have spent most or all of the past two decades in Iran. There, al-Adele continued to coordinate the terrorist group's global activities and plan its campaigns, despite being under nominal "house arrest". All of this should be of great importance in the context of the Biden administration's favored policy of engagement with Iran. For the past year and a half, the government has pursued a diplomatic strategy aimed at getting the Islamic Republic back on track with the 2015 nuclear deal known as the JCPOA. Even now, despite repeated denials, White House officials remain hopeful that Iran may still be willing to accept some sort of new deal over its nuclear program. But to keep that hope alive, the government must largely ignore the Iranian regime's regional concerns and its widespread support for international terrorism. Such an approach has already become a hard sell in Congress, where skepticism about Team Biden's prevailing Iran strategy is growing, even among members of the president's own party. This will become utterly untenable as more and more contacts between the Iranian government and Al Qaeda's top leadership mount, raising serious questions about whether the United States can support Tehran's terrorism, why should the government be empowered and what might happen if it does? Zawahiri's assassination should be celebrated for what it is: an overwhelming victory for the US counterterrorism force. However, we must not be blind of the contradictions and risks inherent in the Biden administration's foreign policy.

- The writer is PhD in Political Science, Email: akramzaheer86@yahoo.com

Trafficking of Rohingya girls a predictable consequence of genocide

Dr. Azeem Ibrahim

The NIA's claim that traffickers were even partially interested in destabilizing the population ratio of India is strange and essentially beside the point. The refugee population throughout all of Bangladesh is no larger than a million. Even the most well-organized trafficking campaign...

WARTIME and incidences of genocide bring many horrors and crimes. Many of them are predictable and, in an age of instantaneous news, sadly routine — and met with global indifference. But beneath the surface of conflicts, new depths of savagery can often lurk. And when they are found, they make chilling reading. Last month, Indian authorities opened an investigation into a scheme that they said was trafficking Rohingya girls on an industrial scale. Six men have been arrested over what India's National Investigation Agency said was a "well-designed larger conspiracy to exploit the illegal migrants and

also to destabilize the population ratio and demographic scenario of the country." This network is claimed to span multiple cities from the border with Bangladesh to Jammu in the country's far north. The NIA alleged that this trafficking operation took girls directly from refugee camps in Bangladesh, where hundreds of thousands of Rohingya have been trapped since 2017, when they were expelled from Myanmar by that country's army in a campaign of genocide and forcible ethnic cleansing. Ever since, the Rohingya have been confined and without economic opportunities, unable to return because of the state of war Myanmar has been in since then, while also denied the legal documents to allow them to return. Indian authorities say that the Rohingyas were trafficked on faked passports and under false pretenses. They suffered what authorities called "various types of exploitation," with underage girls sent to a client by Bapan Ahmed Choudhury — one of the ringleaders — eliciting a complaint, after which Choudhury is alleged to have sent other women to replace them. These things are horrific, but they are not uncommon results of expulsion and genocide. Refugees have few legal protections and little physical security. They are not watched closely for their own safety. In camps, they languish and, as reports indicate, Rohingyas in India have been arrested while attempting to illegally travel to Bangladesh and vice versa. In such a restrictive atmosphere, and without economic opportunities, traffickers of all kinds prosper. They can claim to be able to move refugees from their camps to better lives — offering new identities, falsified documents and the legal right to work and live elsewhere — for a price. But this practice is dark and the industry of trafficking piles illegality on illegality. People expecting new lives can be forced into slavery and indignity very quickly. They have no rights and no recourse if their traffickers turn out to have been lying to them about why they have been moved from one country to another.

It is a disgraceful state of affairs; a predictable consequence of genocide and expulsion, but one that countries are only partially motivated to prevent and punish. The Indian authorities couch their arrests and prosecution of the alleged traffickers in the language of national security and economic integrity. The NIA's claim that traffickers were even partially interested in destabilizing the population ratio of India is strange and essentially beside the point. The refugee population throughout all of Bangladesh is no larger than a million. Even the most well-organized trafficking campaign cannot affect the demographics of a country of more than a billion people. It is disheartening to see such nebulous reasoning appear in an investigation into the trafficking exploitation of underage refugee girls. But it is also an opportunity for the world to once again be made aware of the position of the Rohingya in the camps in Bangladesh, where they are confined by the genocidal actions of the regime in Myanmar. Their economic fortunes are not improving as time passes. Their desperation is not abating. For countries like India, even in the most self-interested of modes, it is now clearer than ever that justice must be sought and achieved if the Rohingyas are to be able to quit this cycle of exploitation and again return to Myanmar. While the Myanmar military retains power — and continues to pursue its genocidal and repressive policies with impunity — the refugees will remain in the purgatory of the camps, vulnerable to exploitation of all kinds. This situation is an object lesson. While the sources of refugee movement remain, refugees will continue to suffer, both in their countries of origin and abroad. Only when that flow is stopped can India be remotely confident that networks of traffickers such as this one will be starved of new victims.

Courtesy: Arab News

Without its founding leaders, what's next for Al Qaeda?

Abbas Shareefa

Al Qaeda's leadership was forced to shuttle between Pakistan and Iran and became more of glorified 'officials' who were left to circulate general policy decisions. Intelligence gathered from Al Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden's hideout in Abbottabad, Pakistan, following his assassination in 2011...

WITH the assassination of Al Qaeda head Ayman al-Zawahiri in a US drone strike, the organisation has lost the last of its founding leaders, which included Osama bin Laden and Abu Hafs al Masri. With Zawahiri's death, the curtain falls on Al Qaeda's first generation of leaders in Afghanistan and Khorasan. But the biggest question now is: how will his death shape the future trajectory of Al Qaeda? Towards gradual decay and total collapse? Or will it be able to marshal its forces and reinvent itself in a new world order? However, Al Qaeda's collapse had begun long before Zawahiri's death, and he had only been pushed into a corner by sustained military pressure from the US and the emergence of an even more fanatical terrorist outfit, Daesh. Since the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the US Embassy bombing of 1998, and the subsequent coalition campaign against the Al Qaeda in Afghanistan that brought about the fall of the Taliban, Al Qaeda's leadership was forced to go underground to evade US targeting. In doing so, Al Qaeda lost its centralised capacity for planning and executing major terrorist attacks. This was especially the case after losing the Taliban's support. Al Qaeda's leadership was forced to shuttle between Pakistan and Iran and became more of glorified 'officials' who were left to circulate general policy decisions. Intelligence gathered from Al Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden's hideout in Abbottabad, Pakistan, following his assassination in 2011, showed how he was forced to abandon radical moves to ensure his own safety. Bin Laden's elimination left Al Qaeda without a powerful central command and this led to the rise of many parallel power centres in the outfit's regional units. The international manhunt against Al Qaeda's functionaries also saw its funding

networks cut off, leaving the organisation without access to its war chest.

The terrorist organisation Daesh's rise to prominence also saw the emergence of a more powerful propaganda machine that could indoctrinate and attract youngsters to its fold at the expense of Al Qaeda.

This would compromise Al Qaeda's military presence. The loss of high-ranking leaders, who were the main pillars of its ideological grounding, will also affect its future recruitment, especially when a rival terrorist group like Daesh has emerged as an alternative. Despite being ideological by origin, Al Qaeda nonetheless places a significant and symbolic leadership role that is particularly vital to its cohesion. As such, the assassination of Zawahiri thrusts Al Qaeda into a major crisis of leadership as it seeks an individual to lead the organisation gravitas similar to Osama bin Laden or an aptitude for struggle like Ayman al-Zawahiri. In this regard, a possible candidate for replacement could be Saif al Adel, a former Egyptian colonel with far-ranging military experience. However, his presence in Iran could curtail his movement and ability to marshal and restore the organisation.

It's also noteworthy that Al Qaeda has long ceased targeting civilians in the West since September 11 and subsequent terrorist attacks targeting subway tunnels in the United Kingdom and Spain in 2004 and 2005, respectively. There has been a marked shift among Al Qaeda's leaders, from targeting the US to making use of opportunities to score political victories impacting the American voter.

Following the Doha agreement of 2020, the Taliban agreed to prevent any organisation, especially Al Qaeda, from launching attacks on the US from Afghan territory. This would indicate that the Taliban's politics can only maintain Al Qaeda's activities.

- Courtesy: TRT World

Briefs

Miftah...

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which were done after holding meetings with IMF. The minister said new LoI has been received today (Tuesday) which he would send back after signing adding "We expect the board meeting would be held in August, hopefully 29 August then the disbursement would start." The minister said that rupee has been performing as best currency of the world following continuous appreciation against dollar for first 15 days of August. Earlier, US Dollar had gone out of control after July 17 and reached to Rs239 exchange rate.

He said, at that time when rupee was depreciating in July he had argued that there was need to control imports and bring it to the level of exports plus remittances to strike balance. The minister said that the imports were recorded at \$8.0 billion during the fiscal year 2021-22 whereas the exports stood \$ 31.7 billion, bringing trade deficit to \$48.3 billion. During the year, the remittances were recorded at \$30 billion. Consequently, the current account deficit (CAD), he said, was recorded at \$17.5 last year despite the fact had PTI was specially focusing to bring it down.

He said, PTI had singularly focused on CAD and was not realizing the measures taken by Pakistan Muslim League government for improving growth rate, infrastructure improvements, building energy and communication. He deplored that during its 4 years turn, PTI government took around Rs19,300 billion debt which is around 79 percent of total debt taken in 71 years. He said, PTI gave \$17.5 billion CAD, 1500 billion electricity circular debt, Rs.1400 gas circular debt, Rs200 billion losses in Sui Northern gas and left just 10.3 reserves at a time when the country was liable to pay \$21 billion debt in 2022-23, \$3 billion in June-July.

Maryam...

FROM PAGE 01

opposed the decision. Also in reply to a comment, Maryam added that Nawaz Sharif even said that he cannot allow to burden the public with one more penny and if the government has any compulsion then he will take no part in this decision. According to Maryam Nawaz, the PML-N supremo was firm on his stance and he left the meeting.

Bus-oil...

FROM PAGE 01

collided with an oil tanker on the Multan-Sukkur Motorway, according to Motorway officials. Traffic remained suspended on the accident spot at M-5 Motorway for several hours. The oil tanker and the bus caught fire soon after the collision, according to the spokesperson of the Motorway Police. The officers of the Motorway Police immediately reached the spot after the accident took place. Local police and rescue 1122 teams also reached the spot. According to the spokesman, the fire was so intense and terrifying that it was visible from a distance. Most of the passengers were rescued alive from the burning vehicles and were immediately transported to nearby hospitals. At least nine passengers were safely rescued from the burning bus.

The Motorway spokesperson further said that it took several hours for the rescue teams to extinguish the fire. On the instructions of IG Khalid Mahmood, the Motorway Police set up an emergency crisis centre. During the rescue operation, DIG Shahid Jawad was also on the spot. The ill-fated sleeper bus left Lahore for Karachi at 9pm. Meanwhile, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Tuesday expressed grief over the loss of precious lives in the traffic accident near Jalalpur Pirwala Interchange on Multan-Sukkur Motorway. In a statement, the minister expressed her sympathies and condolences with the families of the deceased.

PM for holistic efforts to cope with climate change issues

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that climate change, water security and food security were three interconnected challenges and to cope with these issues, they would have to take immediate steps to save the future generations from their impacts. He said that the government was fully cognizant of these problems and resolution of these issues was among the government's top priorities. The prime minister chaired a meeting of the federal cabinet at the Prime Minister's House. The cabinet was given a detailed briefing on the impacts of climate changes in the country. Pakistan had been included among the top ten worst climate affected countries of the world during the last one decade which was a matter of grave concern whereas it had added only just 1 percent of emissions when compared with the rest of the world's emissions which had aggravated the global warming impacts, it was told. The climate changes had also badly affected the natural resources of Pakistan and the increase in population was one of the main reasons, it was added. It was underlined that there was dire need for immediate implementation of 'Mitigation and Adaptation' mechanism in this regard, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. It was suggested that a documentary highlighting awareness over issues confronted by Pakistan, and the steps taken to reverse climate change effects, and COP-27, might be presented at the global fora. It was also emphasized upon the need for adoption of international level and the contemporary latest scientific measures. The cabinet agreed that duration of the public



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairs Federal Cabinet meeting in Islamabad. – APP

service messaging on TV channels should be effectively ensured to overcome these issues. Moreover, the issues of climate change and global warming should be included in the syllabus of schools and colleges besides, ensuring strict implementation of climate change policies. The cabinet also stressed upon planning of rain harvesting on war footing and a suggestion was considered over commencement of a pilot project in Islamabad under the same project. It also unanimously approved constitution of a cabinet committee headed by Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman and comprising ministers of relevant ministries who would present their recommendations over the short, medium and long terms projects.

The cabinet, in its meeting, granted its approval to ministry of finance's recommendation regarding fixation of minimum limit of Diyat amount for the year 2022-23 equal to 30,630 gram silver which amounted to more than Rs 430,000 approximately. 1. Authorization of Government Married Accommodation to Defence Security Force (DSF) Personnel: Amendment in Army Regulations (Rules)-1998
2. Amendment in Annex 'A' to Rule 11 of Scales of Rations and Supplies (Regulations), 2015.
3. Amendments in National Skills University Act, 2018
4. Appointment of Law Officers in Office of the Advocate General, ICT, Islamabad by

Amending the President's Order 1 of 2015 5. Pakistan Veterinary Medical Council (PVMC) Employees Service Regulations, 2022.
The cabinet also approved inclusion of 10 persons on the Exit Control List (ECL), removal of 22 persons from ECL and grant of OTP (one-time permission) to three persons, on the recommendations of the ministry of interior. The prime minister and the federal cabinet, on the occasion, felicitated Minister for Industries and Trade Makhdoom Murtagha Mahmud, secretary cabinet division Ahmad Nawaz Sukhera, secretary ministry of industries and trade Chaudhry Imdadullah Bosal for the conferment of civil awards and appreciated their services. – APP

Ahsan terms education, enterprises and exports key for reviving economy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) in collaboration with National Press Club (NPC) organized an "All Parties Conference for Revival of Economy". Ahsan Iqbal Federal Minister for Planning & Development, Miftah Ismail Federal Minister for Finance, Qamar Zaman Kaira Advisor to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit Baltistan, Shazia Marri Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Senator Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri of JUI(F), Himayat Ullah Mayor of ANP, Mian Muhammad Aslam, Jamaat e Islami, Presidents of Karachi, Quetta, Faisalabad and Islamabad Women Chamber Chambers of Commerce and a large number of business attended the Conference. Addressing the Conference, Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning & Development appreciated ICCI for organizing APC and termed three Es, education, enterprises and exports as key for reviving Pakistan's economy. He said that all political parties should agree on a common agenda to turn around the economy of Pakistan. Miftah Ismail, Federal Minister for Finance said that diverting domestic manufacturing to exports, improving agricultural productivity, providing education to the out of school children, focus on science & technology and living within our own means were very important to revive the economy. Qamar Zaman Kaira, Advisor to PM on Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit Baltistan said that improving agro productivity, encouraging



investment in productive sectors, promoting industrial exports and enhancing manpower exports should be the way forward to revive the economy. Shazia Marri, Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation said that the GDP of Pakistan could be increased by 30% by enhancing the share of women in labor force equal to the men and 25% participation of women in labor force would enhance the GDP of Pakistan by 9%, Senator Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri said that the country should adopt the economic model of the Prophet (PBUH) and Khulafa-e-Rashdeen to revive the economy. Himayat Ullah Mayor of ANP said that resolving issues like poverty, unemployment, local & foreign debts, terrorism, political tensions should be addressed to revive the economy. Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President ICCI welcomed the representatives of all political parties and said that the purpose of organizing APC was to bring all stakeholders at one platform to develop a future roadmap with consensus for reviv-

ing the economy. Khalid Iqbal Malik Chairman Founder Group, Zubair Ahmed Malik former President ICCI, Zubair Motiwalla former President Karachi Chamber of Commerce, Presidents of Karachi, Faisalabad, Quetta Chamber of Commerce, Ms. Naima Ansari President Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce, Haji Ghulam Ali former President FPCCI, Umar Khan Vice President FPCCI, and others also spoke at the occasion and gave useful suggestions for reviving the economy.

Iraq's Sadr suspends planned protest

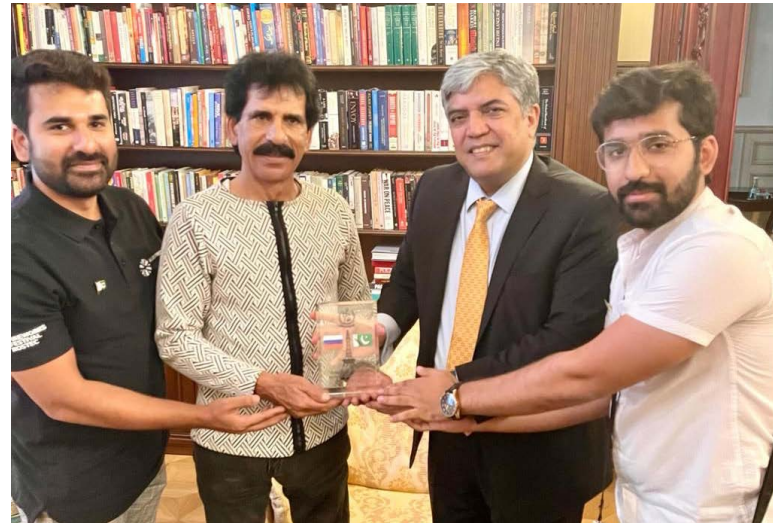
MONITORING DESK

BAGHDAD: Influential Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr has postponed a planned mass protest in Iraq on Saturday until further notice. "I announce that the Saturday protest has been postponed until further notice," al-Sadr said in a statement. "The people will continue their sit-in until their demands are achieved," he added. The firebrand cleric has called on his supporters to rally on Saturday in the capital Baghdad and other provinces amid tension over the formation of a new government. Al-Sadr's supporters have staged protests in recent days following the nomination of Mohammed Shia al-Sudani as a new prime minister by the Coordination Framework, a coalition of groups close to Iran. The Shia cleric has called for the dissolution of the Iraqi Parliament and holding early elections. Last June, 73 lawmakers of al-Sadr's movement resigned from the 329-seat Parliament after failing to form a "national majority" government, as the Coordination Framework hampered the Cabinet formation. Iraq has been in a political deadlock for nine months following the country's general elections last October, which failed since then to agree on a new government between the rival parties.

Ambassador Shafqat receives Shahid Butt in embassy

DNA

MOSCOW: Pakistan Ambassador to the Russian Federation, HE Mr Shafqat Ali Khan has received today Mr Shahid Mehmood Butt, CEO of the Allied Fireworks Company Pakistan, which won first place in the Rostec International Firework Festival, held in Moscow on 14th August. The Ambassador congratulated Mr Shahid Mehmood Butt on the remarkable success. He said that Pakistani company's first position in the international competition had proven their talent and competence. The Ambassador noted that people-to-people contacts build the strongest links between the two countries. He further added that participation in such events provides an excellent opportunity to present Pakistani culture on the world stage. Mr Shahid Mehmood Butt apprised the Ambassador of the technologies



used in the fireworks. He added that high technology mixed with Pakistani classical songs won the hearts of the audience at the event. Amba-

sador Shafqat Ali Khan presented a souvenir to the CEO of Allied Fireworks on behalf of the Embassy of Pakistan in Moscow.

Indonesia, Pakistan trusted partners: Amb Adam

FROM PAGE 01

important areas for greater understanding and cohesion between our two brotherly countries. We, therefore, need to enhance connectivity in the fields of cultural exchanges, people-to-people contacts, cooperation in education, science and technology, and even sports. Networking between academia, think tanks and intellectuals has been Embassy's focus because of its great potential for fostering a sense of relationship based on mutual trust, respect and understanding of each other's traditions and values. With this contextual perspective, the Embassy in collaboration with the University of Peshawar organized an Online Internship Program (OIP) on "Contemporary Dynamics of Indonesia". The main objective is to promote better understanding about modern Indonesia,

its challenges and achievements during transformations of Indonesian society, and Indonesia's growing political and economic integration in the region through ASEAN. The OIP was the second year in a row and the Embassy wishes to continue this program next year. Besides, the Embassy is keenly working to establish "Indonesian Corners" at number of leading Pakistani universities starting with the University of Peshawar. The Corner will offer Indonesian language courses, cultural festivals and other activities of common interests that would be helpful in enhancing useful cultural linkages at large. I am confident that continued close collaboration and facilitation will improve networking at various levels and will surely contribute in strengthening bonds of friendship between our countries. He said, Indonesia and Pakistan share also remarkable similarities in their values, beliefs, food

habits, and other aspects of social and daily life. I am of the view that these similarities are the potent manifestation of the historical, religious and cultural relationship between the two societies since time immemorial. To highlight this relationship, the Embassy in collaboration with Lok Virsa Museum, Islamabad recently organized an exhibition titled "A Night At LokVirsa Museum: The Confluence of Civilizations Between Indonesia and Pakistan", featuring selected collection of photographs and videos on cross-cultural influence on both countries. I am encouraged by positive message we received from visitors and audience about the Exhibition - despite geographically distant apart our two nations are close in the hearts. To a question about Independence Day the ambassador said, in recent years, Indonesia has been transformed politically, diplomatically and economically. These

three key areas form parts of our national identity: things that define Indonesia's place at global arena, the relevance of Indonesia's independent and active foreign policy and its contributions in the world community. As a founder member of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Bandung Spirit is the guiding principle of Indonesia's independent and active foreign policy with a strong belief in multilateralism to resolve global issue amicably. As Indonesia celebrates its 77th Independence Day this year, the world sees Indonesia as the third biggest democratic country in the world where Islam and modernity go hand in hand, the biggest economy in Southeast Asia, a successful country in its transformation and country that practices freedom, pluralism and tolerance. Indonesia is committed to deepening and broadening cooperation with the international community and continues to be at the forefront in promoting the role of the

United Nations in creating a more secure and peaceful world order. Moreover, as a member of ASEAN, G-20, APEC, ASEM, D-8, NAM, G-77 and OIC, Indonesia always strives for the promotion of international cooperation for global peace and prosperity. At present, Indonesia also holds the Presidency of G-20, that demonstrates its fast-growing capacity to provide leadership and represents the voices of developing nations. The 17th G20 Summit will be held in Bali on 15-16 November 2022. The three main pillars of Indonesia's G20 Presidency are: Global Health Architecture, Sustainable Energy Transition and Digital Transformation which will allow taking lead on equitable access to Covid-19 vaccines and inclusive economic development. The above indicators reflect that Indonesia enjoys a respectable place among the comity of nation with its policies of good neighborhood and peaceful coexistence around the globe.

Heli...

FROM PAGE 01

social media, sources privy to the investigation told. Sources said that the people who led the campaign will also be arrested after investigating the individuals involved in the propaganda. They added that the investigations have shown that Indian accounts were also involved in the social media campaign. They added that a campaign was launched against the Pakistan Army by the workers of a political party and Indian social media accounts actively participated in it. The investigations show that at least 17 Indian accounts were linked to the campaign. Last week, Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Cyber Crime Wing registered a case and launched an investigation into the malicious social media propaganda following the martyrdom of army officers in the Balochistan helicopter crash. A joint investigation team headed by Additional Director General Cyber-crimes Muhammad Jafar is carrying out the probe.

Pakistan's...

FROM PAGE 01

and exceptional progress made by it over the years, especially through indigenization. On the occasion, the Air Chief highlighted that both countries enjoy cordial relations and reiterated his resolve to further enhance the existing bilateral cooperation between the two strategic partners. He said Pakistan values its strong diplomatic, economic and defence relations with the United States which are based on convergence on all important issues relating to regional peace, security and stability.

USAID...

FROM PAGE 01

need, and in response, USAID Pakistan will provide \$100,000 to affected populations." This USAID International Disaster Assistance funding will help purchase urgent supplies to save lives and reduce suffering among the most vulnerable communities, he added. Ambassador said that this disaster has resulted in a catastrophic loss of life, with many losing their loved ones, their livelihoods, and their homes. "We will work closely in coordination with partners on the ground to support these crucial humanitarian assistance efforts", he concluded.

Crimea...

FROM PAGE 01

to detonate. Images posted on social media showed huge fireballs erupting at the site and clouds of black smoke billowing into the air. Crimea's Moscow-appointed governor Sergei Aksyonov, who went to the site, said two civilians had been injured but that their lives were not at risk. Local officials told Russian news agencies that some 2,000 people were evacuated from the area as a precaution. Russia annexed Crimea in 2014 in the wake of massive nationwide street demonstrations in Ukraine that led to the ouster of a Kremlin-friendly president. Those protests precipitated fighting between the army and Moscow-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine, which laid the groundwork for Moscow's full-scale assault on February 24 this year. On August 9, Moscow said ammunition had detonated at a military airfield in Crimea, killing one person and wounding several more. It indicated that the airfield was not targeted by Ukrainian forces but experts said satellite imagery pointed to a likely attack, with several Russian warplanes destroyed.



77
PULIH
LEBIH CEPAT
BANGKIT
LEBIH KUAT

Indonesia Spice Up Pakistan

Winning Hearts and Minds through Foods & Flavours

Travel you never forget, Spices you always relish, Cuisines that you cannot afford to miss

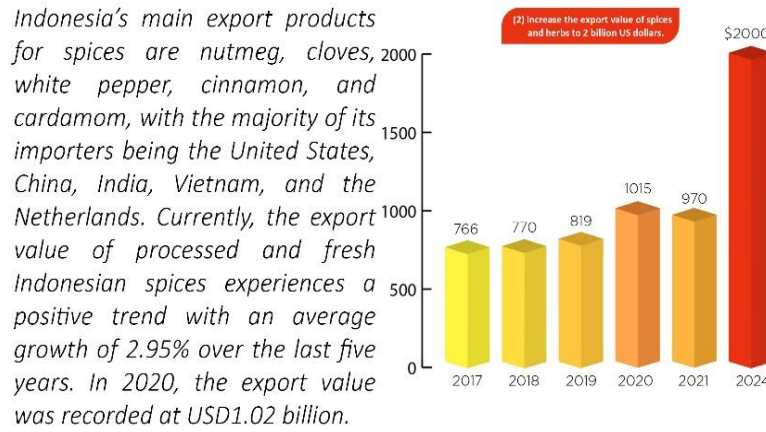
Mesmerizing scenic beauty, spectacular marine life, mega biodiversity, and rich diverse culture and ancient civilization briefly sums up Indonesia, one of the most culturally diverse nations in the world. Similarly, delicious cuisines and heaven of spices are equally noteworthy impressive in the pearl of the Archipelago.

Indonesians are similar to Pakistanis. We love spicy foods a lot! Celebrating various stages of life is incomplete without foods. Some provinces use more spices in their meals than others, and some prefer mild cuisines.

"Mangan ora mangan ngumpul" is a well-known Javanese adage that has evolved into a wonderful philosophy of life. "Mangan" means eating, represents human beings' basic necessities for survival, whereas "ngumpul" or gathering or congregate exemplifies our human nature as social being to live and work in the society. This proverb essentially offers great social value teachings. It reflects a way of life that involves social connection with others, an attitude that prioritizes harmony over personal wants and, if necessary, refrains from eating ("ora mangan") in order to live in peace and harmony with others. In sums, it defines the essence of individual human being who prioritizes friendship and brotherhood above selfish goals as individual beings.

The bonds of friendship between Indonesia and Pakistan are deep and abiding with notable similarities in art, fashion, cuisine, culture and traditions. Given that Indonesia and Pakistan are the two largest Muslim-majority countries, the cultural fusion of the two countries is evident in customs and traditions influenced by Islamic traditions. Students in Indonesia learned that the spread of Islam is also attributed to Gujarati and Indian spice traders in the 13th Century. Indeed, the confluence of civilization between our two countries may be traced back from the traditions of Buddhism. The influence of glorious ancient Gandhara civilization of Sub-continent is also transparent in the form of curly-hair of 505 Buddha sculptures in the 9th Century Borobudur Temple in Central Java.

Today we are witnessing the bilateral fraternal ties have continued to expand and flourish, encompassing all dimensions varying from politics to defence and security, and from economy to socio-cultural affairs. Our two countries are also working together in promoting the attainment of SDG's and in the maintenance of peace and security at global and regional levels. In continuation of our journey to explore various fascinating aspects of Indonesian-Pakistan historic affinity and cultural similarities, the Indonesian Embassy offers a book titled "Indonesia Spice Up Pakistan: Winning Minds & Hearts through Foods & Flavours".



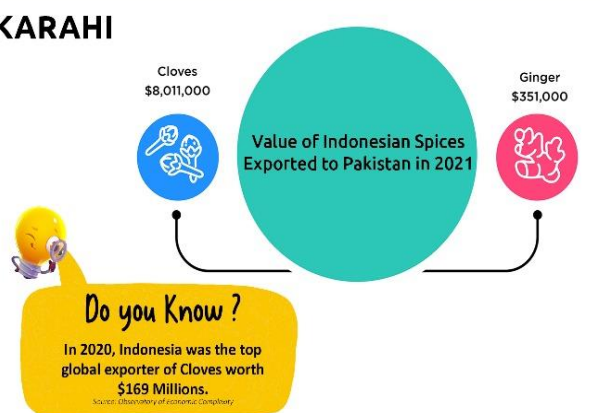
The economic benefits of spice trade are quite promising, and increased trade in this area will undoubtedly spice up our people's lives while also providing major economic benefits. Additionally, the spice industry in Pakistan is also a high-growth sector with a lot of variations and significant contribution in herbal medicine products. According to Yahoo Finance, the value of global herbal medicines or T&CM is projected to reach USD 347.50 billion by 2029 causing global pharmaceutical corporations to hurry to produce herbal medicines without respecting the rights of traditional community that preserves the knowledge. Should this practice continue, the traditional communities, majority of whom live in developing countries, will benefit nothing until we offer adequate and a fair legal protection for T&CM.

Apart from spices the book therefore highlights peculiar features of some famous tourists sites located in different Indonesian provinces such as Lake Toba, Mandalika, Labuan Bajo, Likupang and Borobudur Temple, that would certainly prepare the mind of aspiring tourists to visit these places at least once in their life. Finally, we add some recipes of local culinary delights you can find in the respective surrounding areas for you to try it at home. It is our fervent hope that the book would pique the interest of travelers, tourists, food lovers and entrepreneurs as well as inspire Pakistani brothers and sisters to discover more innovative ways to further strengthen cultural connection with Indonesia.

CHICKEN KARAHAI

Ingredients

- Water
- Ginger
- Garlic
- Cloves
- Chicken
- Tomatoes
- Salt
- Red chili flakes
- Turmeric powder
- Oil
- Coriander powder
- Yogurt
- Black pepper powder
- Green chillies as required
- Green coriander
- Ginger as required



BEEF BIRYANI

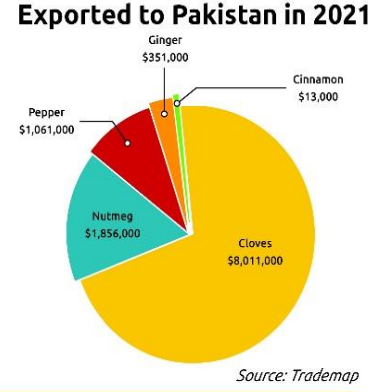
Thought to have developed in the royal kitchens of the 16th-19th century Mughal Empire, this rice dish is often served on special occasions. The meat and rice are cooked separately before being layered and cooked together with an assortment of spices.

Ingredients

- Beef
 - Yogurt
 - Oil
 - Salt to taste
 - Red chili powder
 - Red chili flakes
 - Garam masala powder
 - Coriander powder
 - Green chili paste
 - Ginger garlic paste
 - Turmeric powder
 - Onion (sliced)
 - Cinnamon stick
 - Cloves
 - Black peppercorns
 - Green cardamoms
 - Tomatoes (sliced)
 - Rice
 - Cumin seeds
 - Black cardamom
 - Bay leaves
 - Star anise
 - Water as required
 - Food color (orange)
 - Beef masala
 - Fried onion (as required)
 - Coriander fresh (as required)
 - Mint fresh (as required)
 - Tomato slices (as required)
 - Lemon slices (as required)
 - Nutmeg a pinch
- Source: Sooperchef.pk



Value of Indonesian Spices Exported to Pakistan in 2021



The book carries fascinating information on some amusing facts about spice trade connections along with the ancient Maritime Silk Road. It must have been startling to the readers to know that there was a time when colonial powers were fighting for secure monopoly on spice trade rather than oil. It may surprise the readers to find that economic value of certain spices surpassed the price of gold in the past. Spices were the green gold! Equally fascinating are the multiple usage of spices from culinary to beauty care and from religious rites to health care and people nowadays find them appealing for Traditional & Complementary Medicines (T&CM). Yet the readers will be astonished to hear that there is legal lacuna or legal gap in the global protection of the T&CM.

The book also presents useful facts and figures about bilateral spice trade since Indonesia and Pakistan both produce large quantity of various spices and have big number of spice consumers.

SPICE SPARKED THE FIRST GLOBALIZATION

The pursuit for spices was one of the earliest drivers of globalization circa 200 B.C. The flow of spices from one region of the world to another prompted the development of substantial infrastructure on land and along the coast. This began in the Roman era and continued until the Middle Ages marking the rise to discover new lands and prompted competition among colonial powers leading to the very beginning of globalization.

The Spice Roads is a network of sea routes that connects the East with the West with a distance of over 15,000 kilometres. They extend from Japan's west coast, through Indonesia's archipelago, through India, and into the Middle East, from where they cross the Mediterranean to reach Europe. Spice trade routes were created and they were not only utilised for the sale of goods and commodities but for cultural and political exchanges as well.

The Age of Discovery, officially began in the early 15th century and lasted through the 17th century. Vasco de Gama sailed to India 1498, all most a same time Columbus and Amerigo Vas Puci sailed from Spains to explore New Continent which later known as America. The period is characterized as a time when Europeans began exploring the world by sea in search of new trading routes, spices, wealth, and knowledge. The impact of the Age of Exploration would permanently alter the world and transform geography into the modern science it is today.

Spice Islands, Moluccas and Banda were coveted colony by Portuguese, Spain, England, and the Dutch.

Map of the Moluccas Islands from The First Voyage Around the World (1800) by Antonio de Pigafetta Source: Museo Naval, Madrid. Todos los derechos reservados

Source: expo2020indonesia.id

SPICE ISLANDS

A LOCATION WHERE FOLKLORE MEETS HISTORY

Banda Neira, the birthplace island of nutmeg and mace, and Ternate-Tidore are legendary islands in the history of the Spice Route and the Maritime Silk Road. After Europe identified the origins of nutmeg and cloves, these islands in Moluccas became the Heart of worldwide spice trade until the mid-nineteenth century. Spices attracted Portuguese, Dutch, and England to compete in conquering Ternate, Tidore, and Banda, now part of modern Indonesia, in order to exert monopoly of spice trade.

Source: Wikipedia

Old map Indonesia

Moluccas island old map published in 1630

Do you know?
 The Banda Island, also known as Nutmeg Island, was once more valuable than Manhattan

Do you know?
 New York City is a worldwide trade hub from a long time, that makes us hard to recall that around 350 years ago, the economic power balance was drastically different, with Banda Island being more valuable than New York City.

On July 31, 1667, England made an unprecedented deal "The Treaty of Breda": it exchanged two little islands in Moluccas for a marshy Dutch colony known as New Amsterdam (now New York).

The rest is history.

Publication of the Peace BETWEEN ENGLAND, and the United NETHERLANDS.

Christopher Columbus (1451-1506)
 "But in truth, should I meet with gold or spices in great quantity, I shall remain till I collect as much as possible, and for this purpose I am proceeding solely in quest of them"

Tome Pires (1512-1515)
 "God created Timor for sandalwood, the Moluccas for cloves, and Banda Island for Nutmeg"

A hand-drawn map of New York City: A Description of the Towne of Mannados or New Amsterdam as it was in September 1661 lying in Latitude 40 de: and 40; Anno Domini 1664.

Source: British Library

Briefs

Pakistani Artists win Gold Awards in India

DNA

KARACHI: Zindagi has played a significant role in redefining content with shows and talent from across the border. As both the countries gear up to celebrate 75 years of Independence, Zindagi's popular shows Dhooop Ki Deewar and Qatil Haseenao Ke Naam have won big at the Promax India Awards, 2022. Celebrating the outstanding achievement and win across the region, Zindagi takes home the Promax Gold, for the path-breaking desi noir show, Qatil Haseenao Ke Naam, and cross-border story Dhooop Ki Deewar. Celebrated Pakistani music artist, Zeeshan Parwez has been awarded the gold for Qatil Haseenao Ke Naam for the 'Best program title sequence', while noted Visual artist Rahada Tajwar wins yet another gold for Dhooop Ki Deewar for the 'Best key art'. A favorite among the digital audiences on both sides of the border, Ahad Raza Mir and Sajal Aly starer, Dhooop Ki Deewar also wins the 'Best social media campaign for a program'. Set against the backdrop of the Indo-Pak conflict, Dhooop Ki Deewar aims to highlight that there is no real winner of a war. It tells the story of Vishal Malhotra and Sarah Sher Ali, where they both lose their fathers in a cross-border clash.

Chinese ship docks at Lankan port despite Indian concern

AGENCIES

COLOMBO: A Chinese military survey ship docked at Sri Lanka's Chinese-built port of Hambantota on Tuesday after a delay of several days because of opposition to the visit from India, which vies with China for influence in crisis-hit Sri Lanka. India had opposed the docking of the Yuan Wang 5, which analysts describe as a high-tech ship for tracking objects in space, as it fears China could use the port, near the main Asia-Europe shipping route, as a military base. Sri Lanka, which needs the support of both India and China as it struggles with its worst economic crisis in decades, initially granted the ship permission for a five-day replenishment stay in Hambantota, from Aug. 11. It later asked China to delay the vessel's arrival, citing the need for more consultations. read more Yuan Wang 5 will now berth for only three days to stock up on fuel, food and other essentials, said an official at the port who declined to be identified as he is not authorised to speak to the media.

Kenya election: Raila Odinga rejects results

DNA

NAIROBI: Raila Odinga has rejected the results of Kenya's presidential election saying that the figures announced on Monday were "null and void". According to the results, Mr Odinga narrowly lost to Deputy President William Ruto. Mr Odinga accused the head of the electoral body of a "blatant disregard of the constitution". "We totally without reservation reject the presidential election results," he said. Making his remarks in front of supporters in the capital, Nairobi, he said that there was "neither a legally elected winner nor a president-elect". The 77-year-old long-time opposition leader was running for president for the fifth time. He has challenged the results in the previous two elections, including successfully in 2017. Mr Odinga accused the chairman of the electoral body Wafala Chebukati of "gross impunity" saying his team will pursue all legal options. Minutes before Mr Odinga spoke, four of seven electoral commissioners who refused to approve Monday's results held a press conference to give their reasons.

EU says mulling Iran response to 'final' text

"We are studying it and are consulting with the other JCPOA participants and the US on the way ahead," the spokesperson said, referring to the formal title of the nuclear pact

'Iran supports non-nuclear Middle East'

TEHRAN: The European Union said Tuesday it was studying Iran's response to a "final" draft agreement on reviving a 2015 nuclear accord with major powers it presented at talks in Vienna. The United States had already said Monday that it was informing EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell of its response to the text he submitted on August 8. The possibility of a deal which might lead to the lifting of US sanctions on Iran's oil output of 2.5 million barrels per day has already helped trigger a fall in prices on world markets, with US oil futures dropping nearly three percent to finish below \$90 a barrel. A spokesperson for Borrell - who coordinated talks to bring Iran and the US back into the deal - said the Iranian response was received late Monday. "We are studying it and are consulting with the other JCPOA participants and the US on the way ahead," the spokesperson said, referring to the formal title of the nuclear pact. Iran's official IRNA news agency reported earlier Tuesday that "an agreement will be concluded if the United States reacts with realism and flexibility" to Iran's response. IRNA had said Friday that Iran might accept the "final" text drawn up by the European Union to save the deal, which aimed to curb Iran's nuclear programme in return for sanctions relief. The deal has been moribund since the 2018

MOSCOW: Tehran supports the non-nuclear status of the Middle East and will continue to apply efforts in this direction, Deputy Chief of General Staff of Iran's Armed Forces Ali Abdollahi said at the 10th Moscow Conference on International Security on Tuesday. "We will continue to apply efforts to create a region free from nuclear weapons," he said. Iran's authorities have repeatedly pointed out that the country's nuclear program has exclusively peaceful nature. On August 2, Spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Behrouz Kamalvandi asserted that Iran did not need nuclear weapons and therefore did not intend to move in the direction of developing a nuclear bomb. - DNA

withdrawal of the United States under then president Donald Trump whose administration reimposed crippling sanctions. An unidentified Iranian diplomat said, according to IRNA, that "the European Union's proposals are acceptable provided that they provide assurances to Iran on various points, related to sanctions and safeguards" as well as pending issues with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Britain, China, France, Germany, Iran and Russia, as well as the United States indirectly, resumed talks on the nuclear accord earlier in August after a months-long hiatus. The EU-coordinated negotiations to revive

the so-called JCPOA began in April 2021 before coming to a standstill in March. The EU said last Tuesday it expected Tehran and Washington to "very quickly" respond to the "final" text aimed at salvaging the deal. Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said that, after the lengthy negotiations, "what counts for us is verification" that sanctions are lifted in practice. The US State Department spokesman said it was up to Iran to make a final deal, rejecting reported demands that are outside the scope of the negotiations. "We do believe that what could be negotiated has been negotiated, and we're prepared to

affect a mutual return to compliance with the JCPOA," said Price. As attempts to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear deal heat up, Tehran is seeking guarantees that it will be compensated if a future US president pulls out of the pact, a regional diplomat told CNN on Tuesday. Last week European Union officials sent the US and Iran what it called the "final text" of a revived deal to limit Tehran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief. On Monday night, Iran responded to the proposal in writing, meeting a deadline set by the bloc. While Iran's written response has not been made public, the country's chief adviser to negotiations tweeted that an agreement was closer than ever, but not yet done. But the regional diplomat, who has been briefed on the matter, said Iran has reservations about the possibility of a future president pulling out of the deal and unleashing new sanctions on the country - in what would be a repeat of the May 2018 decision by former US President Donald Trump to leave the agreement and impose crushing financial penalties on Tehran. "It seems there has been progress in bringing views closer, especially in the issue of indirect sanctions on Iranian companies working abroad," the diplomat said. Trump's shadow looms over last ditch effort to revive Iran nuclear deal. - APP

Policemen on polio duty martyred in Tank attack

DNA

TANK: Two police personnel - deployed on polio campaign duty - were martyred in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Tank when unidentified men opened fire at them. The incident happened in Kot Azam, Tank district. Scores of polio workers and security officials guarding them have been killed since 2012 by militants. Pakistan and Afghanistan are the only countries where the virus hasn't been eradicated. In April, Pakistan reported the first case of polio in 15 months. Since then 14 polio more cases have been reported. PM condemns incident In response, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemned the attack on a polio team in Tank, saying the enemies of the health of the nation's young generation would be strongly dealt with. He expressed sympathies with the policemen who lost lives in the line of duty and said the nation paid tribute to the great sacrifices rendered by police. PM Shehbaz said those involved in the attacks on the polio team wanted to make the children of the country suffer from disabilities due to the crippling disease.



ISLAMABAD: Haya Sehgal, Member Board of Governors of KCFR hosted a farewell reception for the outgoing DHM of the French Embassy Yves Manville. Seen in the picture are from left to right, Aisha Farooqi Additional Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a guest, Mr. Yves Manville, Haya Sehgal and Ikram Sehgal. - DNA

UN, Pakistan pay tributes to Nafis Sadik's leadership

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations and Pakistan have expressed sorrow over the passing of Dr. Nafis Sadik, the former Executive Director of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the UN Secretary-General's Special Advisor and Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, and paid tributes to her services. Dr. Sadik, a Pakistani national, died in her sleep on Sunday in New York where she had settled after retirement from the UN service. She was 92. Her funeral will take place on Wednesday. In a statement, released by his spokesman, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, "When Dr. Sadik took up her post at UNFPA in 1987, she became the first woman to head one of the UN's major voluntarily-funded programmes. "She consistently called attention to the importance of addressing the needs of women, and of involving women directly in making and carrying out development policy, which she believed was particularly important for population policies and programmes. "Dr. Sadik will be remembered for her significant contributions to women's health and rights and population policies and for her tireless efforts to combat HIV/AIDS. "The Secretary-General extends his sincere condolences to her friends and family," the statement added. Pakistan's UN Ambassador Munir Akram said, "I am deeply saddened by the passing of Dr Nafis Sadiq, a proud Pakistani woman, a great leader and a visionary internationalist, who served her country and the international community with a bold vision." "She was a role model for generations of women in Pakistan and across the world. She was also my friend and mentor. I will miss her," Ambassador Akram added. - APP

US ambassador's meeting 'not a problem': Mazari

ISLAMABAD: Former human rights minister and senior PTI leader Shireen Mazari on Tuesday said that US ambassadors meeting the officials of provincial governments is "not a problem", as she defended Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mahmood Khan's meeting with Donald Blome. The PTI recently faced criticism over contradiction in stances towards the United States. Speaking at a press conference, Mazari asked under which contract US ambassadors visit sensitive areas while no Pakistani ambassador can go to the sensitive areas of other countries. Moving on to the burning issue of PTI's prohibited funding case, Mazari said: "It is becoming clearer that the Election Commission of Pakistan is biased as the chief election commissioner is making decisions out of his jurisdiction." "He is working under a political agenda," she said. Mazari contended that the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) cannot probe any prohibited funding case. "Under which authority is FIA asking for records?" she asked, asserting that seeking such information does not

The minister said that the ECP "didn't even serve a notice to the party" and when they asked about it, "the Commission said the notice was its on the official website but it wasn't"

fall within FIA's jurisdiction and is against the law. She went on to say that the Supreme Court had directed the Election Commission of Pakistan to look into allegations of prohibited funding against all the parties. "Instead, the ECP adjourned the hearing on PTI's plea for a month." The minister said that the ECP "didn't even serve a notice to the party" and when they asked about it, "the Commission said the notice was its on the official website but it wasn't". Speaking about Shahbaz Gill, Mazari asked why, when the PTI leader gave remarks over a landline, are the police demanding access to his mobile phone. "If Gill has violated any law then make a case against him. They cannot detain a person and torture him at an unknown place," she said, adding that Gill has torture marks on his body and he was kept thirsty and awake. She went on to say that a bid was made to torture Gill after shifting him to PIMS hospital from Adiala Jail. - DNA

38 people found stranded on tiny, unnamed island

The country's migration minister said the group were all in a "very good condition" and the pregnant woman had been taken to hospital as a precaution

DNA

ATHENS: A group of 38 migrants, including a heavily pregnant woman, have been found stranded on a tiny, unnamed island along the Turkish-Greek border. The 22 men, nine women and seven children say they have been on the Evros river islet since mid-July. After being located on Monday, they were taken to mainland Greece. The country's migration minister said the group were all in a "very good condition" and the pregnant woman had been taken to hospital as a precaution. However, at least one child died on the

islet, which is near the Greek town of Lavara, according to the group and human rights agencies. Greek police have yet to confirm this. There had been some uncertainty over the group's location and therefore over whether Turkey or Greece should have stepped in to help. Greek authorities initially said the people - who police say all identify themselves as Syrian - were in Turkish territory. They were eventually found about 4km (2.4 miles) south of the coordinates outside the Greek territory that was initially reported some days ago. This is why, Greek police suggest, the migrants had not been found earlier. Baida, one of the women in the

group, described being treated like "a football game between the two sides" - Turkey and Greece. "No-one wants us. No-one hears us. No-one wants to help," she added. Greece's treatment of migrants trying to reach Europe from Turkey has been highlighted for a number of years. Human rights groups allege thousands of people seeking asylum have been pushed back before being given the chance to apply for asylum. It's also caused rows within the EU after a senior official claimed last year that the country was breaching European fundamental rights. Some refugees say they have been forcibly returned to Turkish waters.

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